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Classification

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Subject : Surveillance of the Grand Mufti Report Number : RIA-776
in Egypt

Place Acquired : Beirut, Lebanon Date of Information : November 1948
Evaluation : Red Date Acquired : 17 Nov 1948
Source : [] Date of Report : 19 Nov 1948

1. ~~Mohammed Bey HADID~~ and Khalil al-HALIBI who arrived by air from Cairo a few days ago, told sources that King FAROUK is fully aware that the Grand Mufti is contacting the Russian Embassy in Egypt through SVERDLOV, one of the Empire's most active senior officials. The Mufti is trying to get Russian aid to save Palestine from partition, promising the Soviets that in return he will try to persuade the Arabs to side with Russia in the coming war.
2. HADID and al-HALIBI said the Egyptian Government has found documents which prove the Mufti's Soviet contacts and indicate that he intended to go secretly to Russia or the satellite countries.
3. Because of this, and other unspecified reasons connected with the Palestinian Arab government, FAROUK has ordered the Mufti placed under strict surveillance, and any action taken, legal or otherwise, necessary to prevent him leaving Egypt.

*(C) f-4 this man with good contacts in Islamic Society.
(E) f-7 Muslim League (in) Damascus.*

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